MIDWEST MARINE TERMINALS INC.

19001 Old LaGrange Road
Mokena, IL 60448

October 8, 2018

Paul Ruesch
On-Scene Coordinator
Region 5 – Superfund
Emergency Response Branch
United States Environmental Protection Agency – Region V (SE-5J)
77 West Jackson Boulevard (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: Midwest Marine Terminals – Fire Incident
Initial Written Report
National Response Center Incident Number 1224637
Illinois Emergency Management Agency Incident Number H2018-0863

To whom it may concern,

This letter is being written to provide a summary of the incident reported at the Midwest Marine Terminals (MMT) site of 11701 South Torrence Avenue, Chicago, Illinois (the site).

Fire Incident Reporting and Immediate Response Measures

At approximately 1:22 pm on Friday, September 14th, 2018, fire was observed at a small section of an MMT's customer's Tire Derived Fuel (TDF) shreds pile. The Chicago Fire Department was contacted at 1:24 pm. At approximately 1:52 p.m., and as fire trucks and other emergency vehicles were arriving, the TDF pile was engulfed in flames. I was contacted around 1:34 pm to address the situation at the site. At about the same time, MMT notified Environmental Restoration, LLC, an environmental emergency response contractor, to mobilize to the site as soon as possible.

By approximately 3:22 pm, the smoke from the TDF shreds ceased as the flames were extinguished from the exterior of the pile. However, the fire within the pile continued to burn.

Shortly after Chicago Fire Department and Environmental Restoration, LLC personnel were contacted and mobilized to the site, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, the Chicago Local Emergency Planning Committee, the National Response Center, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, the Chicago Department of Public Health (Hazardous Materials Unit and Environmental Unit) and several other agencies were notified by MMT or other agencies of the incident.

Environmental Risk Mitigation Efforts

With the consult and direction of the Chicago Fire Department, Environmental Restoration, LLC the Environmental Protection Agency and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Midwest Marine Terminals personnel performed preventative measures to ensure water used to extinguish the fire would not migrate to the Calumet River or any storm drains. At 4:00 pm, it was determined that no petroleum or contaminated water from the fire-fighting measures had reached the Calumet River. The following measures were performed to avoid any future infiltration of the river or storm drains:

- Oil-absorbing booms were placed at each of the outfalls leading to the Calumet River
- The sump pump which removed water from the Scale House and drained the water to the northern most outfall was deactivated.
- A sand berm was placed around the main storm water ditch to prevent the migration of water to this area.
- Sand and fine stone were used to block each stormwater outfall. This prevented any water from migrating to the Calumet River.
- All sewers, catch basins and storm ditches were either blocked, bermed, covered or protected by absorbent booms to prevent quench water infiltration of the Calumet River or storm drains.

At around 8:00 pm, vacuum trucks and frac tanks arrived on the site to begin collecting the fire quench waters. The vacuum truck operations were placed east of the TDF pile. These operations continued for approximately four days.

Fire-suppression measures continued to be performed into Saturday, September 15th. It was determined the most efficient method to extinguish the fire permanently was to separate the TDF into smaller piles. At approximately 4:30 am on Saturday morning, the process of separating the TDF into smaller piles commenced. This process began with the coolest section of the pile, located towards the east.

On September 15th, Illinois & Michigan Oil LLC was contacted to assist in delivering a barge to collect the quench water used to extinguish the fire. A 300,000-gallon fluid containment barge was delivered to the site the morning of Sunday, September 16th.

Site Clean-Up and Recovery Efforts

At approximately 6:30 am on Sunday, September 16th, the fire was completely extinguished and water ceased being poured on the TDF. During this time, Illinois & Michigan Oil LLC began pumping water directly from the stormwater ditch and the sump pump area into the barge. (See overhead map, attached hereto). The vacuum trucks were re-directed to collect water from the area surrounding Gate 1, the Scale House, and the Storm Water ditch in the center of the site. The water collected in the vacuum trucks was placed in the barge as well. This barge, filled with approximately 300,000 gallons of water, departed the site Sunday evening. The water contained in this barge was disposed of at a wastewater treatment center.

On Monday, September 17th, Illinois & Michigan Oil LLC returned to the site with a second barge which had a capacity of approximately 760,000 gallons. During the week of September 17th, Illinois & Michigan Oil LLC continued to pump water from the stormwater ditch adjacent to the Calumet River and the sump pump area while Environmental Restoration, LLC continued to operate vacuum trucks at the area surrounding Gate 1, the Scale House, and the storm water ditch adjacent to the Trap Rock Storage Area. Vacuum trucks were also positioned in the areas surrounding the urea fertilizer storage shelter to collect any excess water. At this point, there were approximately 20 frac tanks located on-site with a capacity of 20,000 gallons each. On Thursday, September 20th, the majority of quench water from fire-fighting operations had been collected into the two barges and the frac tanks located on the site.

Precipitation events were forecasted to start Friday, September 21st. To prepare for these possible storms, the blockades of sand and stone remained at each of the stormwater outfalls. In addition, a sand berm approximately two feet in height was placed around the north and east boundaries of the TDF piles. The TDF piles were bordered by a concrete wall to the west and bordered by a blockaded ditch to the south. Due to the preparation and foresight of MMT, all stormwater from the precipitation

events was effectively contained on the site. No potentially contaminated petroleum quench waters or stormwaters reached the Calumet River.

On Sunday, September 23rd, Illinois & Michigan Oil LLC began to collect any potentially contaminated/petroleum water which appeared in the stormwater ditch adjacent to the Calumet River. In addition, Environmental Restoration, LLC positioned a vacuum truck to collect any potentially contaminated/petroleum water from the bermed TDF storage area. Any collected contaminated/petroleum water was placed in the frac tanks or the 760,000-gallon barge.

On Monday, September 24th, Illinois & Michigan Oil LLC and Environmental Restoration, LLC began to transfer any remaining potentially contaminated quench or stormwaters stored in the frac tanks to the barge. The barge departed that Monday evening to dispose of its contents at a proper wastewater treatment center.

Ongoing Maintenance Operations

During the week of September 24th, it was determined that no potential petroleum or contaminated water could reach the sump pump which discharged directly into the northern most outfall. Therefore, the sump pump was re-activated. The oil-absorbing booms remained in place as a precautionary measure. All other outfalls remain blockaded with sand and fine stone.

Illinois & Michigan Oil LLC returned with the approximately 760,000-gallon barge on September 30th to drain any petroleum and contaminated water from the frac tanks. After this was performed, all but six frac tanks were removed from the site.

At the demand of MMT, its customer began removing all TDF shreds from the property during the week of September 24th and such removal is ongoing.

The sand berm surrounding the TDF piles remains in-place at the site. After significant precipitation events, any petroleum seen in the stormwater ditches or the TDF storage area has been collected and placed in one of the six remaining frac tanks. The petroleum and contaminated water stored in these frac tanks has and will be collected by barge or tanker truck. The contents of these frac tanks will continue to be disposed of at a proper treatment center. This operation will continue until all TDF has been removed from the site.

To the knowledge of this author, no petroleum or contaminated water has reached the Calumet River from September 14th to this date.

Future Reporting

Midwest Marine Terminals will provide notification once the disposal of the TDF and all ongoing maintenance operations have concluded.

The amount of TDF lost due to the fire has yet to be determined. Once the amount of TDF lost to the fire is determined, a proper air emissions analysis can be performed. If necessary, an Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act Emergency Release Notification (EPCRA 304)/ Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Report will be submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the City of Chicago Local Emergency Planning Committee.

We have attached an overhead map showing the layout of the premises during the response actions. If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact me at 708-326-4591 or at michaelsaldarelli@ozinga.com.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Saldarelli Jr, PE
Director of Environmental Compliance

Attachment:
Overhead Map of Midwest Marine Terminals

cc: Robert Kondreck, On-Scene Coordinator, Emergency Response Branch, 77 West Jackson Blvd, SE-5J, Chicago, IL 60604
Thomas Mendez, On-Scene Coordinator, Emergency Response Branch, 77 West Jackson Blvd, SE-5J, Chicago, IL 60604
Steve Faryan, On-Scene Coordinator, Emergency Response Branch, Superfund Division, 77 West Jackson Blvd, SE-5J, Chicago, IL 60604
George Krebs, Office of Emergency Response Investigator, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, Springfield, IL 62702
George Skrobuton, Environmental Protection Specialist, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 9511 Harrison St, Des Plaines, IL 60016
Nick Relwani, Environmental Engineer, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 9511 Harrison St, Des Plaines, IL 60016
DeRon Howard, Environmental Specialist, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, 400 East 130th Street, Chicago, IL 60628
Marqwe Shaffer, Senior Environmental Specialist, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, 400 East 130th Street, Chicago, IL 60628
Ashley Warren, Environmental Specialist, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, 400 East 130th Street, Chicago, IL 60628
Bernice Cavin, Environmental Specialist, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, Monitoring & Research, Industrial Waste, 6001 West Pershing Street, Cicero, IL 60804-4112
John Singler, Senior Environmental Inspector, Chicago Department of Public Health, DePaul Center, 333 South State Street, Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60604
Tiffany Williams, Senior Environmental Inspector, Chicago Department of Public Health, DePaul Center, 333 South State Street, Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60604
Michael Todd, Senior Environmental Inspector, Chicago Department of Public Health, DePaul Center, 333 South State Street, Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60604
Acting Director, William P. Robertson, c/o Mr. Kelly Horn, Illinois SERC, 1035 Outer Park Drive, Springfield, IL 62704-4462
Chicago Local Emergency Planning Committee, Office of Emergency Management, Attn: EPCRA Coordinator, 1411 West Madison St, Chicago, IL 60607

Midwest Marine Terminals

Overhead Map